

Fishfinder

Rise in fall? That might be the case

By Tony Chamberlain
GLOBE STAFF

Yes, there is life after summer, and many in our region would say it's a better one. For salt-water fisherpeople, this could be the weekend to catch that 40-pound cow striper under the light of the harvest moon. Freshwaterites should be in for great fishing to the north as the Moosehead Lake region - Greenville, Kokadjo, Rockwood - with its many rivers and streams, is serving up some tremendous trout and landlocked salmon. Closer at hand, Sebago Lake and its tributaries, such as Crooked River, will produce decent salmon in this period. And down in the Merrimack in New Hampshire, a strong stocking program is paying off as plenty of good trout are being taken, with the high-line so far a 15½-pounder from the Franklin area.

AREA A: Around Great Bay, lots of school bass action, with party boats getting big cod and pollock and some haddock catches offshore on northern Jeffries. The back side of Gloucester's Atlantic Avenue has some decent striper fishing down to Rockport. Bluefish are still found around Halibut Point and on the inshore

side of Thatchers Island.

AREA B: Better pickings this week, says Pete Koutrakis, who reports more schoolies of almost legal size around the Salem area in good numbers, with keepers in the mix as well. Boat guys working points of Magnolia, Manchester and Marblehead with chunked bait, while surfcasters are finding fish, mostly schoolies, along Devereaux and Lynn Beaches. Some tinker mackerel around, but almost no blues. Flounder in Salem surprisingly good, with a few cod close outside. One in three is a

Fore River and Town River both coughed up keepers of late, with lots of small stripers in the outer harbor. A few blues occasionally show up, but they're very spotty. The channels between the islands - Long, Thomson, Rainsford - have been productive this week, too.

AREA C: The usual stretch - Hull's Black Rocks down the Cohasset shore, including Minots Ledge, East Passage and The Glades, the entrance to Little Harbor - provides the spots to fish nights this weekend. Chunked bait works best. Lots of small schoolies outside The Gurnet over to Warrens Cove and Manomet Rocks. Smaller fish still abundant in Duxbury Bay around The Cowyard and the back-side beach channel. Cape Cod Bay along the southern sweep - Brewster, Billingsgate and The Path to Truro - has been good lately. Decent bass feeding in these haunts.

AREA D: Night and dawn fishing are best in the Canal, and the moon is right in sync. Generally, action has slowed in the Canal, including the west side, Onset and surroundings, which were so good all summer. But Buttermilk Bay is worth checking out, along with the Wewianic River. Try the boat ramp along Route 195 eastbound in Wareham as a jumping-off spot.

AREA E: Again, evenings and mornings are best along the south side beaches, which are very active right now with both bass and bluefish. Use your poppers and midwater swimmers along here. Vineyard Sound has been excellent this week, with best action at the south end of the island from the Menemsha Bight to Gay Head. Bonita aficionados will have a ball this weekend in the Nantucket Sound waters between Cape Poge and Woods Hole. East Chop was excellent midweek.

AREA F: Plenty of small schoolies on the back-side beaches, but just offshore, you can find the big fish. This is the time of year for cow bass in the dark.

